

b.) Remarks

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. Additionally, Claims 5-7 are amended for better conformity with idiomatic format and accepted U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

Claims 4, 20, 21 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura. Although Applicant respectfully believes the rejection to be without basis either in law or in fact, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice solely in order to reduce the issues. Accordingly, this rejection is mooted.

Claims 7 and 39 are objected under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot refer to two sets of claims with different features. While this rejection too is believed to be ill-founded (that is, the antecedent claims do not have different features, since antecedent claim 6 itself depends from claims 2 or 3), such is addressed by the foregoing amendments.

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, claims 2 and 3 are amended to recite "isolated" in conformity with the Examiner's suggestion.

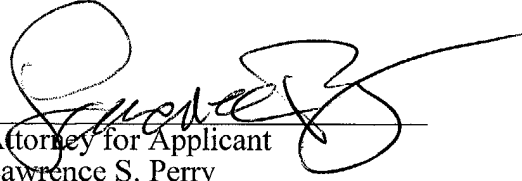
Claims 4, 20-21 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection as well is mooted by the foregoing cancellation of these claims.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant submits that the Examiner's various concerns are addressed and the claims are all now in allowable condition. Accordingly, allowance of this application and prompt passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-7 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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